

**Statement of Senator Jim Bunning**  
**February 28, 2008**

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The health of our economy and financial markets is a concern to everyone here today. Growth has slowed and we have been through a rough patch in the credit markets. Everyone wants to see stability and growth return.

Congress has acted to restore confidence in the economy. The Fed has taken steps to thaw the credit freeze. We hope that these policy actions will head off further damage, but no policy can reverse the busting of the housing bubble and we are not going to regulate away problems in the economy.

While I have supported actions taken to respond to our economic problems, I fear they will have unintended consequences. I am most concerned about inflation and the fall of the dollar. We need to think beyond what we have already done and take steps to encourage long term growth. Congress can give taxpayers, businesses, and investors certainty that their taxes are not going to go up. Congress can knock down roadblocks to growth such as artificial limits on our energy supply. Congress can make it more appealing for corporations to stay in the United States by easing regulations and lowering the corporate tax rate. Only with long term permanent policies can we ensure a healthy economy for our grandchildren.

I look forward to hearing from the Chairman.